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9 GERMANS SEIZED IN SPYING ON I.B.M.

**Data-Process Secrets Said
to Have Been Stolen for
East-Bloc Country**

By Reuters

BONN, Jan. 5 (Reuters)—West Germany has broken a Communist-directed espionage ring aimed against the International Business Machines Corporation, the Federal Public Prosecutor said today.

The prosecutor, Siegfried Buback, said that nine persons had been arrested on suspicion of disclosing secrets about Western electronic data-processing techniques to an East European secret service.

He said at a news conference that investigations by the police had involved three other persons, but he declined to identify any suspects or their nationalities.

The American computer concern, in an official statement from its Stuttgart headquarters, said later that one of the nine arrested was an I.B.M. employee.

I.B.M., which specializes in electronic data-processing and has 24,000 employees in West Germany, said the employee arrested was an equipment-maintenance man. The concern said it had cooperated with police inquiries and declined to disclose any further information.

The prosecutor said the ring had passed on secrets to a special department of an Eastern secret service, but did not name the country. Informed sources in Bonn identified the secret service as the K.G.B., of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Buback said the authorities had broken one of the most significant industrial spy rings in West Germany. The investigation, he said, began on Dec. 22 when two persons were caught microfilming computer maintenance manuals in an industrial concern in Frankfurt.

The prosecutor estimated that the group had received about \$108,000 for its information, but that the total paid by the foreign secret service could have been much higher. One of the suspects had about \$34,500 in his pocket when arrested, Mr. Buback said.

He emphasized that no state secrets had been betrayed, but said the group had passed on details of computer systems, micro-programing, maintenance manuals, magnetic tapes and other technical details.

When searching the homes and offices of the suspects, Mr. Buback said, the police found rolls of film containing incriminating pictures, one of the latest Soviet-made minicameras and computer components.

Arrests Confirmed by U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (UPI)—The State Department confirmed today that nine West Germans had been arrested in Karlsruhe on charges of espionage. One suspect was identified as an employee of I.B.M.

A spokesman at I.B.M. world headquarters in Armonk, N.Y., said the employee was "an equipment-maintenance man," and that the corporation was cooperating fully with the West German police.

The State Department said the arrests had been announced by a Karlsruhe prosecutor. The men apparently were detained when they broke into I.B.M. offices in Frankfurt.